



Mary Magdalene 22 July

Newsletter

20 & 27 July 2025



Mary Martha and Lazarus 29 July

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Services for Sunday 20 July 2025 5th after Trinity

St Paul's 10am **Presentation Sunday** lead Revd Andy Smith, preach Rick Otto

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach: Revd Mike Dyson

Services for Sunday 27 July 2025 6th after Trinity

St Paul's 10am **Morning Praise** lead and preach Anthea Darlington

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Revd Avis Gordon



Readings for Sun 20 July Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

Mark 10: 13-16

Readings for Sun 27 July Hosea 1: 2-10

Luke 11: 1-13

(1) *Shema Yisroel: the most important prayer*

(2) *Let the children come to me*

(3) *Hosea's wife and children*

(4) *The Lord's Prayer*

Wed 23 July: Ps 78: 17-31; Matt 13: 1-9 Wed 30 July: Job 31: 16-23; Luke 4: 16-21

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I was delighted to hear recently from Luciana Lang who heads up the **Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group** and with whom we worked on the age-friendly faith communities project last year. As a result of this work, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's



umbrella term for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises organisations (VCSE) from now on will include Faith in its title. I think this is a remarkable achievement! Luciana was keen to hear what, a year on, we felt we had gained from the project. I'm grateful to those members of Time Out who have shared their thoughts with me: reports in more detail in our Summer magazine (out 2 August). Here is a summary of what we sent to Luciana.

We were able to share our experiences through the fortnightly parish newsletters that are sent to a wide section of the community. The people who took part keep saying that they would like to do it again and how important the sharing with people of different religious persuasions had been for them. The experience of visiting different faith spaces had a lasting effect on people, especially for those who had limited experience of community diversity. It has had an impact on the quality of older people's lives who engaged with the project's activities, challenging them to do more than they would have thought possible before. The Time Out social group to which they belonged and through which they participated in the project has grown and gone from strength to strength, involving more people from outside the church community. It encouraged us to register with Age-Friendly Salford and the East Salford Neighbourhood Team. Their emails come through regularly now, and we advertise their activities for older people in church. It has widened our interests and made us appreciate what we have at St Paul's, while at the same time challenging us to look harder at what we do in and for the community, and how we could improve that through our current resources.



Important announcement. News we have been awaiting for some time. In the Diocese of Manchester's List of Appointments this week: 'The Revd Dr **Lee Longden**, Incumbent in the benefice of St Paul, Kersal Moor, has been appointed as Bishop's Disability Adviser and Assistant Curate, to be known as Associate Priest, of the Benefice of St Margaret, Heywood and St George, Heap Bridge.' The PCC will share the implications of this with the parish as they arise.

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This week's saint: the much-misunderstood **Mary Magdalene**. According to the four gospels she travelled with Jesus as one of his followers and was a witness to his crucifixion and resurrection. She was a historical figure, possibly from the town of Magdala. She is honoured as the "apostle to the apostles" because she was the first person to see the risen Jesus and told the others about him. Early Christian writers began to add to her story, showing her as Jesus's closest disciple who uniquely understood his teachings, causing tension with Peter. Eventually she became viewed in Western Christianity, largely due to Pope Gregory I's influential 591 Easter sermon, as a repentant prostitute, despite no biblical basis for this portrayal. The Gnostic texts have inspired modern misinterpretations of her role with wild speculations, such as those in Dan Brown's 2003 bestselling mystery novel *The Da Vinci Code* (and film) which says she was Jesus's wife and pregnant at the crucifixion, and gave birth to Jesus's child, bringing him eventually to the south of France where he became the founder of a bloodline which survives to this very day! During the Counter-Reformation, Roman Catholicism began to strongly emphasize Mary Magdalene's role as a penitent sinner, and huge numbers of Baroque paintings and sculptures show her naked or covered by her hair, always very beautiful. A far cry from the reality of an ordinary woman who the New Testament tells us followed Jesus.



+++++ **Prayers** We pray for God's healing for those in our church family who are unwell at this time. We pray for peace in the Middle East and the Ukraine, and for all seeking to find a solution to conflict in these areas. Prayer for perseverance: *Holy Lord, Thank You for grace. Please help me move beyond the hurdles that trip me up and give me the strength and wisdom to look up and see the hope I run toward in Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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News and events

Presentation Sunday today 20 July with Rick Otto from the Diocesan Board of Education. Picnic/games to follow for Sunday School children, their parents and teachers: on the Moor if fine; if wet, in church (games in Worship Area, picnic in Social Area after coffee)

Digital Ministry: date of first meeting to be announced soon. Speak to Daniel now.

Advance notice: replacement of blowers and air curtain in Social Area in the first week of August. Please keep this area clear Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (NO coffee morning)

Next 2 weeks

Tuesday 22 July: Leavers' performance 9.30am St Paul's School for parents with presentation of books from St Paul's Church by Heather Martin

Tuesday 22 July: PCC 7pm St Paul's

Wednesday 23 July: 10am at St Paul's: **Holy Communion** with Revd Daniel Mullaney

Wednesday 30 July: 10am at St Paul's: **Morning Praise** with David and Heather Martin

Advance notice: Colossians sermon series at both churches each Sunday in August.

Beginning with Colossians ch.1 by Revd Avis Gordon on Sunday 3 August; Colossians ch.2: Revd Mike Dyson 10 August; Colossians ch.3: Revd Andy Smith 17 August; Colossians ch.4: Anthea Darlington 24 August; Philemon: Revd Daniel Mullaney 31 August.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information visit our websites:

St Paul's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15877

St Andrew's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15878